

is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

The Cleveland Branch of the NAACP was established in 1912 by a small group that consisted of a cook, machinist, engineer, caterer, janitor, tailor, barber and seven postal workers. By 1914, the Cleveland Branch had 214 members. Throughout its history, the NAACP Cleveland Branch has worked to end discrimination in area schools, businesses, public establishments, and hospitals. It has fought for equal justice from the law, employment opportunities and voting rights among other campaigns. It has been led by 32 presidents, including former Cleveland City Council president George Forbes, who served from 1993 to 2012. Today, the NAACP Cleveland Branch is comprised of 15,000 members and is led by James L. Hardiman.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the National Association of Colored People, Cleveland Branch on 100 years of working for civil rights.

HONORING POWELL'S BOOKSTORE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2012

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Powell's Bookstore, a Portland landmark, on the occasion of its 41st anniversary.

One of the benefits of my job is an opportunity to become a part of a lot of exciting events: Groundbreakings, anniversaries, ribbon-cuttings, commencement speeches. On August 25th, in Portland, I shared a truly unique moment. It's one of the reasons why people come from all over the world to share in the Portland experience. No tour of Portland is complete without a visit to Powell's City of Books. This is not just because this bookstore is the one attraction in Portland that's open 365 days a year, and bad weather doesn't stop you. In fact bad weather makes the trip to Powell's even more fun. It's iconic but I think few people really understand why and how it got to be that way.

Portland is the livability capital of the United States. And livability is about things like bikes and beer, about restaurants that are locally owned, gluten-free organic and free-range with everything sourced from less than four blocks from the restaurant. It's a powerful concept, to be local, human-scale and high quality.

Think about Powell's. It's local in the extreme, but it's been on the web for almost 20 years now. The staff is amazing! It's full of Reed college double majors in physics and philosophy who are members of the long-shoreman's union and speak Swahili and Gaelic.

It's probably the best place in Portland for a first date. You really get to know someone wandering through the stacks at Powell's with them. It's a great place to ditch a kid for a long period of time, although that sometimes makes Michael and the staff a little nervous. It is the ultimate Christmas experience as all of the last-minute shoppers flock here. It's not just what you get, it's what you do, sharing in the frenzy of the wild-eyed, strange people who are wandering the aisles at the last moment.

Powell's is uniquely Portland because it is a family enterprise. On August 25th, I was joined by Alice Powell who is Michael's partner in life and a professional in terms of counseling that I think often has helped move the institution along. There may have been a few moments in the history of taking risks in this enterprise where maybe another income made a difference.

Michael Powell is a shy semi-curmudgeon, so it's hard to tell about all the contributions that Michael has made to the community. It's not just about his business. He's one of the people who understand that what's good for the community is good for his business, and what's good for his business is good for his community. For the better part of these 40 years, I've had a chance to work with him on a wide variety of projects, from parks and planning, to transportation and downtown development. Michael has helped lead the charge for business people to tax themselves to improve the quality of the downtown experience. For 20 years he's been not just active, but a leader, in bringing the streetcar to Portland and then expanding it. Because of Michael's efforts, the streetcar is one of those experiences that make Portland unique.

Now with their daughter Emily, it's been three generations of Powell's involved with this institution going head-to-head against the big chain establishments. With all the changes in publishing, all the changes in the economy, they've been a constant. Powell's has been a leader in ways that have made a big difference to us all.

I was asked to share a memory of Powell's, which was kind of hard because I've got so many of them over the years.

There is one experience that stands out. I love books. I'm a library junkie. I have my own study carrel in the Library of Congress, perhaps the most magnificent building in Washington, DC. I was having a tour for some Oregonians that were in town, going through the Library of Congress. We went up the staircase to look over that magnificent reading room, just a spectacular sight. It is hard to believe that it was built by the Corps of Engineers over 100 years ago.

While we're standing there, looking down at the reading room, there were people from another tour crowding behind the Plexiglas, quietly oohing and ahing. I turn to my right and there's someone wearing a Powell's City of Books t-shirt. I interrupt to say, "That's cool, I'm from Portland, I represent the Powell's." Before you know it, the whole tour is disrupted because people are noticing the Powell's shirt and they're talking about how much they love Powell's. I thought it was a perfect expression of what Powell's means to Portland and to people around the country. Congratulations on 41 years. Thank you for enriching our city and our experience. We look forward to many more years of your success.

RECOGNIZING THE POTENTIAL OF COMMUNITY LENDING

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2012

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize some recent innovations in private

lending to graduate and undergraduate students in U.S. colleges and universities. I also want to encourage our nation's wealthy individuals to think about participating in these programs as one way to give back to our communities. Since its inception in 2011, the Social Financial company, or SoFi, has offered compelling community-based lending and consolidation programs, and this academic year will assist students from 45 colleges and universities across the country.

At its core, SoFi demonstrates the powerful idea of community lending. It brings alumni, students, and schools together to ensure students' debt burdens are manageable. For the upcoming 2012-13 academic year, SoFi used its equity base and additional capital from alumni to secure \$80 million to finance, fund, and support new student loans. This innovative student loan solution benefits students, alumni, higher education institutions, and our nation. The funds from school-specific lending pools allow students to enjoy comparatively low-interest loan rates and opportunities to refinance previous loans. In addition, the alumni that contribute to the pool earn a significant and low-risk return, while schools gain access to low-cost funding.

Mr. Speaker, although I do not expect private lending schemes to supplant available federal loan structures, I believe Social Financial's commitment to the betterment and transformation of the financial services landscape for students sets an example for how to innovate in this field. I commend SoFi for its hard work, community partnerships and innovation, and congratulate SoFi on its continuous expansion to schools across the U.S. In order to tackle student debt, we will need to be creative, in exactly the ways SoFi has been. I encourage those who have the means and desire to give back to follow Social Financial's example and invest in the education of the next generation.

HONORING FANNIE SHERIDAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2012

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I present the following U.S. Citizen of Distinction.

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman . . . who has given of herself to her community, church and family; and

Whereas, Mrs. Fannie Sheridan's spirit is present in DeKalb County, Georgia for all to see, being a mother, a community worker, neighbor and friend; and

Whereas, this giant of a woman was born in Eufula, Alabama to Maceo and Loftie Tennelle on October 12, 1925, she has been on the move ever since as a woman of God, touching lives in Alabama, Chicago, Illinois, Gary, Indiana and Decatur, Georgia; and

Whereas, this remarkable woman gave of herself, her time, her talent and her life; she never asked for fame or fortune just fairness for the people, she was our quiet storm, a spark that starts a flame; and

Whereas, Mrs. Fannie Sheridan led by doing behind the scenes, she encouraged all those around her who wanted to make a difference, be it her family, her elected officials,